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EXTENSIVE IRRIGATION, RECLAMATION PLANNED;
NEW AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE OPENS

PLAN TO DIVERT SIBERIAN RIVERS, IRRIGATE DESERTS -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 123,
26 Jun 49

Two rivers begin within 20 - 30 kilometers of each other in the Turgay Gateway, the Ubagan, a tributary of the Ob', and the Turgay, which flows in the direction of the Aral Sea. The Turgay Gateway prevents the flow of Siberian river waters into Kazakhstan. As a result, 2,390 cubic kilometers of fresh water are wastefully emptied into the Arctic Ocean. These waters could be used to irrigate the Kara-Kum, Kyzyl-Kum, Aral-Kum, and Betpak-Dala deserts. To utilize these regions agriculturally, it is necessary to divert river waters from Siberia to the south. A Soviet engineer, M. M. Davydov, has drawn up a plan to create a river channel between the North Arctic Ocean Basin and the Aral-Caspian Basin.

A dam must be built on the Ob' River, in the region of Belogor'ye Village and below the conflux of the Ob' and Irtysh rivers. It will form a large water reservoir, 250,000 square kilometers in area. The waters above this dam, flowing in the channels of the Ob' River and of its tributaries, the Irtysh and Tobol, will be diverted toward the Turgay Gateway. A 30-kilometer canal must be dug here. The over-all length of the entire canal which will follow the ancient channels of the Ob' and Irtysh rivers, will be 930 kilometers. Siberian water will flow through this canal to the southern slope of the Turgay Gateway, and proceeding along the Turgay River channel, it will pass through Lake Chelkar-Tengiz and flow into the Aral Sea along the dry river beds of the Turgay and Irgiz. The level of the Aral Sea will be raised one meter and its water will be fresh. Aral Sea waters will flow through present depressed areas and the dry bed of the Dar'yalak-Kunya-Dar'ya River and then through a connecting canal into the Sarykamysh' Valley, filling it up. Water flow would continue for 775 kilometers along the dry bed of the ancient Uzboye River into the Caspian Sea. Five hydroelectric power plants with a total capacity of 10 million kilowatts could be built on the Ob' in the Turgay Gateway and on the Uzboye. These would give power equivalent to 80 million tons of coal per year.

About 20,000 cubic meters of water per second must flow through the canal in order to irrigate 25 million hectares of land in Kazakhstan and Central Asia and to maintain the necessary water level in the Caspian Sea. The waters of the Ob' alone are insufficient but the Yenisey can supply about 10,000 cubic meters.

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SECRET

50X1-HUM

A dam must be constructed on the Yenisey below the mouth of the Podkamennaya Tunguska River and a connecting canal constructed between the Ob' and the Yenisey.

The Ob'-Aral-Caspian Canal, equipped with locks for the passage of sea vessels, could float 600 - 700 million cubic meters of commercial timber to the shores of the Caspian Sea in a single shipping season. About 15,000 - 20,000 heavily loaded trains would be needed to transport this timber needed for the economy of the southeastern USSR. Petroleum, cotton, coal, grain, superphosphate, fruit, etc, could be shipped from south to north.

This grandiose project could be realized in the course of 15 - 20 years. It is possible to begin work on it in a few years.

BARABINSK STEPPE TO BE RECLAIMED -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 116, 14 Jun 49

The Barabinsk Steppe covers a large area and has excellent meadows and pastures. However, a large portion of this area consists of swamps. At present, it is being transformed into a thriving dairy region. New and up-to-date creameries are being built. Thousands of kilograms of first-grade butter are being shipped daily from this region.

The supply of cattle feed is a very important question here. The quality of feed is very good, as the pastures receive plenty of sunlight. However, the swamped condition of the plains makes it very difficult to utilize the abundant feed resources and often large meadow grounds are entirely wasted. After two or three rainfalls, for example, cut grass is washed away. Some pastures, surrounded by swamps, are inaccessible to grazing cattle in summer.

All this makes it extremely necessary to drain and reclaim the Barabinsk forest steppe. This year the scope of the work has been greatly increased. It is necessary to speed up the regulation of waterways, such as the Uzakla River, running from northeast to southwest in Kuybyshevskiy Rayon, the Ugurmanka River, tributary of the Om', which should be used for draining the land of Mikhaylovskiy and part of Ubinskiy Rayon, the Kundusla River in Kuybyshevskiy Rayon, etc.

Improvement of the Uzakla River bed will provide vast pastures for three large sovkhoses and a number of kolхозes. In Mikhaylovskiy Rayon, the 25-kilometer Yuzhilinskiy Canal will be put into working order and in Barabinskii Rayon, the Kozhurlinskiy and Tandovskiy Canals. Many pasture grounds are swamped in Kargatskiy Rayon, and here it is necessary to improve the condition of the Letnikovskiy and Shumikhinskiy Canals. The same applies to the Arantays-Bashkul'skiy Canal in Kyshtovskiy Rayon. Much work will have to be done to clean these canals thoroughly. Large numbers of kolхоз farmers will be organized for this work.

NEW AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE TO OPEN -- Stalinskoye Znamya, No 99, 22 May 49

The Ryazan' Agricultural Institute imeni Professor P. A. Kostychev will open on 1 September 1949.

The Institute will have Agronomy and Zootechnical departments with a yearly enrollment of 75 students in each starting in 1949. The Ministry of Higher Education USSR was authorized by the Council of Ministers USSR to accept 50 students for the senior courses in each of these departments for the 1949 - 1950 school year.

[Note: Stalinskoye Znamya, from which the above is taken, is published by the Ryazan' Oblast and City Committees, VKP (b) and oblast and city Soviets of Workers' Deputies. It is not the Stalinskoye Znamya published in Andizhan.]

- 2 -

SECRET

SECRET

50X1-HUM

TOPS TRACTOR-REPAIR PLAN -- Kommunist, No 156, 5 Jul 49

The Yerevan Electric Repair Plant repaired 371 electric tractors above plan during the first 6 months of 1949.

NEW SUGAR INDUSTRY ENTERPRISES -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 147, 24 Jun 49

"Sakhstroy" (All-Union Trust for Construction and Assembly of Sugar Refineries) is constructing or reconstructing 15 sugar industry enterprises in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Bashkiria, and Kursk and Voronezh oblasts. Many of them will be put into operation this year. Among those being reconstructed are the Kupyansk Plant in Kharkov Oblast, the Smela Plant in Kiev Oblast, the "Velikiy Oktyabr'" and Ternovskiy plants in Sumy Oblast, and the Artemovka Plant in Poltava Oblast.

FUR TRAPPERS TOP PLAN -- Molodoy Dal'nevostochnik, No 110, 14 Jun 49

Esso-on-Kamchatka -- Bystrinskiy Rayon fur trappers completed the second-quarter plan 238 percent. The procurement office received many bear skins above plan.

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- 3 -

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